

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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THE NEW SYNAGOGUE - CENTRE

The committee in charge of the campaign for the new Synagogue-Community Center is very much awake and exceedingly active. The project is beyond all doubt the most important before the Jews of Ottawa. That they appreciate this truth was realized by the generosity of their response last year. Naturally, they want to know what progress is being made.

This month there will appear in print the first financial statement, and it is guaranteed to warm the heart of every interested person. This month, also, the second instalment of the pledges falls due, and here too, the results will certainly prove gratifying. No salesmanship is required to obtain the sums we are seeking, since the simple presentation of the facts suffices. Every family that has a child in the Hebrew School, or a son and daughter seeking pleasant surroundings for Jewish group activities, or a husband and wife who attend the affairs of our organizations, knows that Ottawa has been handicapped for years through lack of facilities to provide for the program that an energetic community should have. There is, moreover, a decided urgency to combine the efforts of our two largest synagogues in creating a House of Worship that will be a proud institution in our midst.

What can the individual do to hasten the full realization of our hopes? He can be prompt in paying his pledge. He can re-examine his initial pledge with a view to the possibility of substantially increasing it. He can talk to those of his friends who somehow have not yet signed a card, or he can urge those upon whom he has influence, who are capable of giving more than what they actually subscribed, to do so. He can direct his talents towards strengthening at every possible moment the community spirit among our people, and towards preventing divisive forces from arising anywhere among our different societies, clubs and organizations. He can, indeed, encourage the meetings in which he takes part to keep thinking of the different ways in which they might add to the momentum of our great drive towards a real home for all Jewish causes and purposes.

The Synagogue and Community Center will serve you. Make sure that you are tirelessly serving it.

Youth Aliyah Chanukah Party

The annual Hadassah Youth Aliyah Chanukah Party will take place on Sunday evening, December 10th, at 8 o'clock in the Talmud Torah Hall under the chairmanship of Mrs. S. Silver, assisted by Mrs. I. Witen and Mrs. I. Sobcuff. The improved war conditions and better transportation facilities have made it possible to bring greater numbers of children from liberated Europe to Palestine, and the needs of Youth Aliyah grow from week to week calling for greater outlays of funds. The Ottawa Hadassah Council, therefore, calls upon every man and woman in the Jewish community to attend this Chanukah

party on the first night of the Yom Tov, thereby making this affair one of the most outstanding in its records. A group of Talmud Torah children, under the direction of Miss Rose Goldberg, a member of the teaching staff, will present a Chanukah play entitled, "The Little Brown Jug".

The cast includes: Esther Betcherman, Leah Tavel, Molly Schreiber, Leah Greenberg, Rochel Shapiro, Helena Pleet, Helena Zbar, Sarah Rubin, Tilly Lieff, Rosalyn Pleet.

Noted Lawyer To Speak

Mr. Philip Joseph, a noted authority on the Near and Middle East, where he practiced law for fifteen years as an out-

5705 CHANUKAH 1944

This year Chanukah, the Feast of Lights, or the Feast of Dedication, begins Sunday night, December 10, when the first candle is kindled. Lasting for eight days the festival ends at sunset, Monday, December 18. Each evening of these eight days we light the candles after dark, with the exception of Friday, when they are to be kindled immediately before the blessing of the Sabbath candles.

The holiday reminds us of the victory won by the Maccabees over the Syrian masters of the Holy Land, the climax of the triumph coming in the renewal of the traditional service in the Jerusalem Temple. Especially symbolic at that time was the rekindling of the Menorah, in which pure olive oil was used. The Talmud relates that only one flask of the proper oil was available when the Temple was cleansed, and it miraculously sufficed for eight days instead of the usual one day. The holiday is marked by the daily recitation of Hallel and Al Hanissim, as well as lighting the candles. It is also customary to exchange gifts and give presents to the children. To remind ourselves of the uncertainties in war and the great miracle that finally enabled the weak Jewish minority to drive out a powerful foe, Chanukah has as its special game the risky business called "dreidel".

standing member of the bar will speak at the Talmud Torah Hall on Thursday, Dec. 7, 8.30 p.m. His brilliant defence in the Syrkin case, when for thirty-seven days he defended the honour of the Jewish Agency as well as the accused, received wide acclaim. Mr. Joseph presents an authoritative picture of conditions as he intimately knew them in Palestine.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of the local Zionist Society.

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THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

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Wartime Prices and Trade Board Exemption Certificate
No. 66, dated Feb. 9, 1943.

THE LIGHTS MARCH BACK

The whole world was thrilled to hear the broadcast of a Jewish service from German soil on the last High Holidays. Nothing could more dramatically illustrate the advance of the United Nations than the possibility for free Jews to congregate undisturbed at a religious service in the Reich. Since that date, the brave men of our armed forces have plunged still deeper into German territory, and we can joyfully visualize the gathering of Jewish men in uniform in dozens of German villages to kindle the Chanukah lights and to sing the Maoz Tzur in the very halls where a year ago the Horst Wessel song still echoed its bloodthirsty notes.

What a great thing to know that the lights are marching on our side. How unending is the satisfaction of seeing the descendants of Mattathias taking part in the great battle for the independence of civilization. All the darkness of Nazi philosophy flies before the steady flame of our tiny candles. Aye, they were brutal and strong and pitiless, they were arrogant and overweening and autocratic, they were cruel and despotic and vicious, but they could not withstand the simple honesty in the pure oil of Hebrew morality. The heavenly commandment has been given us to kindle the Chanukah light, and so irresistible is the order that we carry it out in the face of the most tremendous opposition.

The lights are marching into Germany, and let us be assured that the basest human attempts will never be allowed to stop them, never to extinguish them. Can it be that the great Master of Intuition, the great wallpaper strategist, did not understand the meaning of the experts who predicted that this war would be won by oil?

WE SHALL NOT BE CONDEMNED

We, the Jews of the world, shall not be condemned because a few have lost their heads. We refuse to accept the blame for a crime in which we had no share. We cannot be made to answer for the evil that two men, or two hundred, have committed. We strenuously reject the implication that we supported, directly or

indirectly, the irresponsible act of a reckless handful. We have contributed far too much in blood, sweat and tears towards the war effort of the United Nations to permit that record to be concealed behind the stormy confusion of those who would attempt to discredit us. We have done more of a constructive nature in progressive civilization in the Holy Land than people four and five times our size have shown during these past twenty-five years, and we do not propose to let so brilliant an achievement be forgotten in the heat of a single episode, no matter how tragic.

If blame is to be distributed for causing the patience of an impatient few to crack, let history judge whether any portion of that should fall on our shoulders, and much of it can be put upon the cruel indifference of all the world to our unbelievable sufferings in Europe, how much upon the mighty of the earth who could, if they would, have given us the only chance of rescue by opening wide the doors of the Holy Land. If young men are driven to unnatural extremes—and what more unnatural than for a child of Israel to pull an assassin's trigger—should not the whole complex of causes be made subject to objective and unbiased scrutiny?

We have been heroic in our restraint, perhaps even guilty for the plodding, slow methods we adopted to awaken the conscience of the world. In the midst of unwarranted provocation against us in our own homeland, we strove to keep the peace...We watched our men and women shot down from Arab ambush, without venturing forth in a blaze of anger to burn their villages. We voluntarily accepted the policy of keeping scrupulously away from aggression that would have certainly been forgivable in the circumstances, and we firmly refuse to admit that we are culpable now, when an unrepresentative insignificant group has broken away from our discipline. We have no intention of permitting penalties to be levelled against any except those who are guilty. For them we hold no brief, and their aims we will not further; for them we ask no privileges and their aims we will not embrace, but we warn the conscience of mankind that justice must not be perverted into injustice by destroying the good with the bad. We remember that the first Jew, Abraham, won divine approval of the thesis that the most wicked cities ought not to be destroyed if a very small number of righteous men can be found in them, and we rebel at the grossly unfair opposite thesis that millions of Jews must suffer because tens of Jews perpetrated a wrong.

Let the world know clearly the issues. When the trial will be held in Egypt, it will be the trial of the two, not of the two million and twice two million Hitler has done to death, nor of their kinsfolk who know not the Yahrzeit day. When some insist that there are others in the background who stand trial, let them know for a certainty that these in the background are precisely those who wrote black things on white papers.

But we, the Jews of the world, shall not be condemned. Our sacrifices, our brave sons on all fronts, our uncounted and unmarked dead, our Struma and Patria victims and our Danube drowned, our infants buried alive and our mothers driven mad, our deathless longing for Zion and the rivers of blood we have poured into its building—all these cry out: We shall not be condemned.

Letters from Overseas

David Heaps writes to his father about the experiences of his brother Leo in the invasion of France as follows: "Just a note. Leo probably was quite non-committal about himself. This, very briefly, is what happened. He was in the very first group to land. You probably read of them."

"They were the glider troops who fought their way inland around Tilly and Villers Bocage and held out alone for about two weeks or so. Of a battalion of some 35 officers and 600 men, 4 officers and 120 men were left. His complete escape without harm, is very remarkable. He visited our battery and he was asked to address the men. It is incredible that young Leo was the same person. He saw killing galore—took over various jobs until he was hit 12 days after D-day. He is now perfectly fit and going to Leeds for a leave of a few days. He met all sorts of German troops, the older men and foreign conscripts on the beaches, and the fanatical young Nazis inland. He considers the latter impossible and already, he says, they talk of the next war and are reconciled to the loss of this one. He fought against tanks and in close hand-to-hand combat—whereas the paper may talk of light losses—and Nat, in a letter to me, says it was easy going in. You must remember that, that is not so for the combat troops who went in first or at any time. It is not the administrative workers or supply units which suffer the losses, it is the men at the front."

Jack Wolfe writes to the Rabbi from Italy: "For Yom Kippur, services were held in a town. There we met some Jewish boys from India, who looked more Indian than Jewish but I suppose that is to be expected".

Teachers Course

Mrs. R. Zivian announces the inauguration of a Teachers' Course. All teachers and would-be teachers are welcomed to attend the lectures which are held at the Ottawa Talmud Torah. The following lectures are to be given:

Tues. Dec. 12: Principles and Methods of Teaching, by Dorothy Ryan, B.A. B. Paed.

Wed. Dec. 20 and Wed. Jan. 3, Psychology in Education by Blanche Loeb, M. A.

(These two lectures will be held at the home of Mrs. Blanche Loeb, 340 Chapel St.)

Do You Know That -

Syd Abelson is now a Squadron Leader?... The annual meeting of the Chevra Mishnayes elected back into office the Gabaim M. Roodman and K. Cohen, as well as the secretary M. Greenberg?... Among the recent repats were Philip Feron and James Silverman (35 times over Germany without a scratch)... The Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood is to be reorganized under the leadership of Mrs. Gordon Caplan?... The actual burning of the Bnai Jacob Synagogue mortgage was performed by the two veterans of the Congregation: J. R. Fogle and M. Friedman?... Since sickness has made it difficult for Mrs. Dora Shenkman to supervise the Talmud Torah kosher kitchen, Mrs. I. Shalom has taken over?... The Chevra Kadisha, after returning to office the four Gabaim of last year (B. Cooper, M. Palmer, O. Petigorsky, and Rev. J. Rabin) conducted a private campaign among its own members to begin the project of their own chapel with surprisingly excellent results?... Mr. S. Katz has been named Honorary Vice-President of the Congregation Adath Jeshurun and W/C B. Alexandor has been named an honorary member of the Board of Directors?... Dr. David Petegorsky has been named chairman of the Planning committee for the new synagogue-community center?... Mrs. I. Sieff of London, will be the guest speaker at the annual Hadassah Give or Get Dinner on January 23?

SHABBOS CANDLES.

Dec. 8	5.00 p.m.
' 15	5.00 p.m.
" 22	5.03 p.m.
" 29	5.08 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 10, and Wed. Jan. 31, Dramatics in the Classroom, by Doris Bubbis, B.A.

Wed. Feb. 21 and Wed. March 14. Current Affairs, by David Petegorsky, Ph. D.

Mrs. Wm. Goldblum, Mother of the Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School Cradle Roll, requests that all births should be registered with her immediately.

The Cradle Roll sends birthday greetings to each child, up to and including the fifth birthday.

Ottawa Scholar On Air

In connection with Jewish Book Month, Dr. David Petegorsky will broadcast an address entitled: "Books and Battles" over Station CFCF, Montreal, on Saturday night, Dec. 9th, 9.30-9.45 p.m.

Add "Tal Umatar" to your "Shmoneh Esreh".

HEBREW STUDY CIRCLE BACK.

Adults interested in Hebrew are welcome to attend a meeting of the Chug Ivri to be held in the Talmud Torah Sunday afternoon, Dec. 17th. Further information may be obtained by calling Rev. J. Rabin or Dr. A. Sloane.

Miss Sylvia Marcus recently won a Scholarship at McMaster University.

SYNAGOGUE NOTES

The days are now short, so that your help may be required at your synagogue to have a Minchah minyan at 5.00 p.m. Come into shule as often as you can... Until further notice, the Oneg Shabbat has been discontinued... Cong. Machzikei Hadathwill hold tis annual Chanukah dinner on Sunday eveninig, Dec. 17th.

BOOKS WANTED.

The Jewish Service Centre, 228 Albert St., will be glad to accept books and magazines (recent issues) of general interest to service personnel. Buy a good book or two for the Centre Library, and give our men and women in uniform the recreation of popular reading.

RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

1. The Public School Board of Ottawa, in compliance with a Provincial Act, is introducing religious instruction in its classes for two half hour periods each week.

2. Every responsible Jewish organization in Ontario recommends that Jewish parents ought to have their children excused from these periods.

3. Write a note to the teacher, as soon as you hear that these lessons have started, requesting that your child be excused.

4. Since our children receive intensive religious instruction daily, the Rabbi has asked the Board to fix the time for the religious lesson for the last half hour of the school day. Thus, our children will be able to use these two periods for rest between Public School and Talmud Torah. It is hoped the Board will act favourably on this recommendation.

Talmud Torah Notes

Approximately 15 boys and girls in class Beth were awarded their pins of membership in the morning Minyan Club. In order to earn these children have been davvening every morning at home before going to school for at least one month.

An outstanding season of Shabbas Minyan attendance in the Talmud Torah has marked the first months of the Talmud Torah year. It is not unusual to find between 70 and 80 children at the services on a Shabbos morning.

The Gan-Yeladim (Hebrew kindergarten) under the direction of Miss Rose Goldberg, is extremely popular with the boys and girls who are 4 or 5 years of age. They come every afternoon to the Talmud Torah for an hour and a half period of Hebrew games, songs, vocabulary, and the elementary teachings of Judaism. Even in the most inclement weather their attendance has been remarkably high.

To facilitate the analysis of weekly progress in the Talmud Torah, a system has been recommended by Rabbi Fasman, which is carefully supervised by the principal, Rabbi B. Kravetz, whereby at the end of the week every teacher presents in tabulated form the total record of attendance, tardiness, and the material covered in every subject of instruction.

Favourable reports on the progress of a former Talmud Torah pupil and graduate, Mayer Pleet, were recently brought back to Ottawa from the Montreal Yeshiva Merkaz Hatorah, where he is now a capable student. It is believed that in the near future other members of Mr. R. Epstein's Gemarra class will also be ready to continue advanced Jewish studies either in Montreal or in the United States.

JEWISH BOOK WEEK.

This is Jewish book week, and throughout United States and Canada efforts are being made to encourage Jewish homes to purchase volumes of specific Jewish interest in English, Yiddish or Hebrew. At the same time, it is also felt that Jews will make a special attempt to begin reading at least one book of such a nature during this week. The Rabbi will be glad to help you, if you call upon him for suggestions in the matter of acquiring more Jewish books for your personal library.

Overseas Honour Roll

Since the last of the Bulletin, the following men have arrived overseas on active service:

Cpl. I. Smith.

Pte. W. Leibovitch.

L.A.C. R. Shapiro.

Gnr. J. Steinberg.

If you know of any others, please get in touch with the Overseas Mailing Chairman, Mr. D. Mirsky, at 3-0676.

YOUR RABBI SAID...

Judaism is infinitely greater than anti-Anti-semitism... One can give charity only at given occasions, but one can be charitable all the time... An interesting aspect of Jewish youth Sabbaths is that they result in children leading their parents to the synagogue... Our answer to those who burn down synagogues is to burn a synagogue mortgage...

YOUNG LEADERS.

The Hanoar Study and Breakfast Club chose its officers for the coming year at an election held last month in the Adath Jeshurun synagogue. The following were elected:

Pres. Ted Angert.

Vice-Pres. Ted Freidgut.

Sec. Gerald Sherman.

Treas. Moe Litwack.

Exec. Advisor Marvin Schreiber.

SERVICEMEN'S CHANUKAH.

A Chanukah service for men and women of the armed forces will be held at Cong. Adath Jeshurun, King Edward Ave., on the first night of the holiday, Sunday, Dec. 10th, at 6.00 p.m. The three chaplains in this area, F/L J. Berger, F/L W. Gordon and Capt. O. Z. Fasman will lead the period of worship, Cantor J. Rabin will pronounce the candle benedictions, and afterwards the Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood will serve refreshments. It is planned to conclude the social hour at 8.00 p.m.

Chanukah Programs

The children of the Ottawa Talmud Torah will hold their annual Chanukah program in the Talmud Torah hall Sunday morning, December 17. Dramatizations, singing and appropriate recitations will be included in honour of the occasion. All parents and friends are cordially invited to attend.

The Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School will close the first part of its school year with a Chanukah dreidel entertainment on Sunday morning, December 17. After that, because the Osgoode school building is closed, no classes will be held until Sunday, January 7.

Program Chairmen, attention: If you have any large meetings of your organization during this month, telephone Mr. S. Ritt and ask him to arrange for somebody to give a five minute talk on the progress of the synagogue-community center project.

COUNCIL SEWING

The Council of Jewish Women has taken over the Hadassah Sewing Room for Wednesday afternoons. The Council members enjoy the useful war work they are doing with needle and thread. And when the machines are going, conversation with friends is pleasant. Come up!

Have you registered your son's Bar Bar Mitzvah with the Rabbi?

IMPORTANT.

The second instalment on your pledge to the Synagogue-Community Centre Fund is due now. Mail your cheque at once to the Chairman of the Finance Committee:

Mr. I. Stone,
231 Daly Ave.

You should know that:

1. Although people were asked to pay 20% of their pledge the first year, actually 22% was paid in.

2. Of 575 pledges, less than 2% have failed to make the first payment; and in not a single instance does the Executive Committee feel that the money can be regarded as "uncollectable".

3. Practically all the money collected has been put into Government Bonds, thus working for victory while waiting for the opportunity to build.